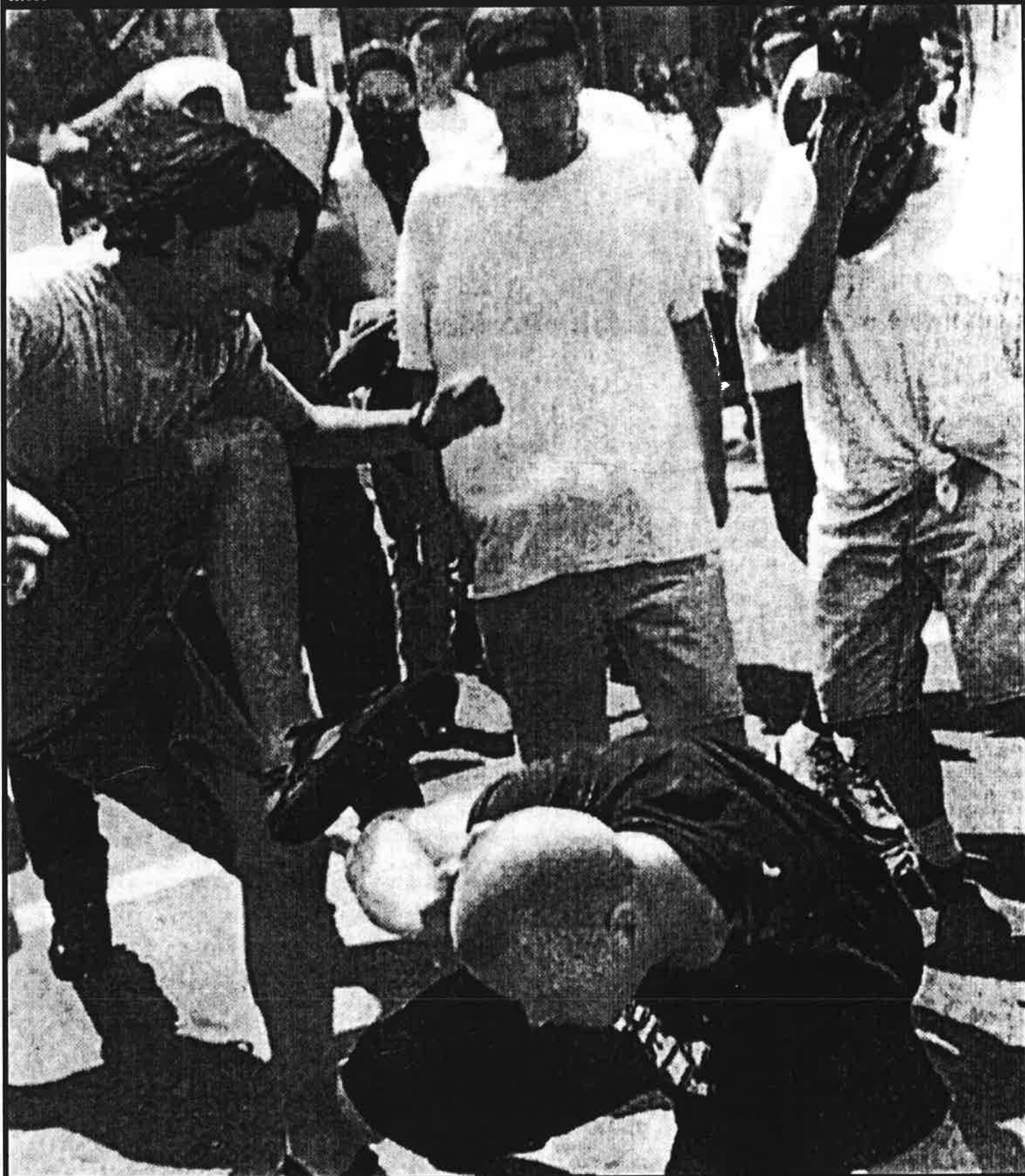


FIGHT RACISM
ANTI-RACIST ACTION

FIGHTING WORDS

THE STREET ZINE OF ANTI-RACIST ACTION



Articles inside: Anti-Nazi Rally in St. Paul. MOVE, a Pro-Zapatista Demonstration and an interview with The Native Ones.



[Article by John]

THE BATTLE OF SAINT PAUL

All right, here's how it started out. Back in late March we intercepted this invitation to what was billed as a "national white unity meeting" to be held in the Twin Cities area, in mid-April. The National Socialist Movement planned to hold a two day conference and rally, at an undisclosed location, featuring speakers like Tom Metzger, founder and head of White Aryan Resistance, and local boy Jeff Schoep, director of the National Socialist Movement (props to homeboy that hit that fool with a tire iron!) Not to mention Robert Brannen, the founder of the N.S.M, and a handful of other shitheads who crawled out from underneath their rocks in east St. Paul. Anyways, we got together with a few other local activist groups, like Refuse&Resist! and ASIA, and formed a coalition to confront these clowns, to let 'em know they weren't welcome in our town, or on our streets.

So on Saturday, April 18th, we all got together at this park on 24th & 2nd, and waited for the word to move in on the Nazis. When we found out they were about to hold a press conference at the St. Paul federal building, we all relocated to shut the fascists down, by any means necessary.

Jeff Schoep (pronounced SHIT-head), the pudgy, slightly brain-damaged young leader of the National Socialist Movement.



When the first wave of protesters showed up, we had them outnumbered, like 2 to 1. They were decked out in their brown shirts, swastika arm bands, and combat boots, and they even had these little Nazi flags on these big ass wooden poles, that they later used to attack anti-racist protesters with. We shouted them down with anti-Nazi slogans and chants, but eventually we just had to rush them fools. They threw up the "sieg heil" and attacked protesters with their flag staffs, which they later had to drop to fit into their get away cars. We smashed out the windows on their Nazi-mobile, and fucked up a few of the Nazis too. By the time the second wave showed up, the first had already left, wanting to avoid any further confrontation with the media or police. A second fight broke out when a couple of boneheads showed up late to their own rally, only to be confronted by an angry mob of anti-racists. Local bonehead Shannon Callahan of south St. Paul pulled a hit and run move on an anti-racist protester, and got beat down like a sucker, in retaliation.

It was a clear victory for the anti-racists. The Nazis had been beaten back, and we had made a clean get away. The only "problems" that came up were when we all turned on the news that night, to get a look at the action that had gone down earlier on that day. This piece is in part, a response to all the bullshit criticism we've received since then, in the newspapers, on the television, and on the streets.

There is a myth of free speech in America. People who take a critical view of the establishment are reported on selectively, their views distorted or taken out of context. Legitimate protest is shut out, and all avenues of debate are closed. The media is going to look out for its own interests, and they don't want to point the finger at themselves. After all, the media is only as liberal as the conservative business that owns it. They instill a false sense of security within our minds, and our government is quick to spout out meaningless, patriotic slogans, filled with vague concepts of liberty, justice, equality, and freedom. We allow our rights to be stripped from us because we don't know or understand them in the first place.

If freedom of speech really existed, Elmer Geronimo Jijga Pratt, of the Black Panther Party wouldn't of been incarcerated for twenty five years for embracing the politics of liberation and self defense. Political activist and journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal wouldn't be on death row facing execution at the hands of the state itself. The same state that granted him the "freedom of speech" in the first place. Local activist Sister Rita Steinhagen, founder of the Minneapolis Free Store, and The Bridge for runaway youth, wouldn't be on lock down for protesting at the School of the Americas, a training ground for assassins in South America, located in southern Florida. And these aren't even a fraction of those who have been beaten, jailed, executed, tortured, or incarcerated at the will of those who are in power, under the disguise of "free speech". The list goes on and on.

But lets pretend for a moment that the first amendment really does exist, and that all of us are guaranteed its protection and infinite compassion. Should Nazis be protected by it? There is after all a difference between "free speech" and "hate speech". In one letter of criticism we received, Michael Walker of Burnsville stated that "As citizens of this country, the members of the National Socialist Movement do have the right to free speech and peaceful assembly. So long as their actions do not impose on the rights of others, they are protected by the law." To his credit, he also said that "We certainly should have no respect for these people and their views; however, as Americans, we ought to respect their rights." Well Michael, I've got a feeling that the advocacy of the elimination of an entire culture constitutes the "infringement" of other's rights. It's called "ethnic cleansing". It was real popular back in the 40's, remember?

The philosophies of neo-nazis are rooted in violence, racism, anti-semitism, hatred, ignorance, and imperialism. Under fascism, which is the philosophy

of one nation, one race, one supreme authority, free speech wouldn't even exist. Shit...even the illusion of free speech wouldn't exist. If the neo-Nazi movement took power today, you could guarantee that they would kick down your door tomorrow, and burn all your books the day after that. How patriotic it is of us to imagine these silly Nazis coming out to talk about their "silly little race war", while we protect them with our constitutional rights, and the American flag. "There, you see? Everybody really does have rights, and we really are all equal in America! I feel so good about myself!" and when it's all said and done, the Nazis just evaporate, and we never have to think about them again. That would be convenient, but back in reality, fascism is a threat. The fascists will not establish a democratic process or state, and they are not willing to peacefully coexist with anyone.

You've got to know your enemy, and what they're capable of. The evening news reported that "violent anti-racists" disrupted a "peaceful Nazi rally". What the fuck is that? "Peaceful Nazi rally" is a contradiction in terms. We're talking about people who are responsible for the murder of six million Jews, communists, gays & lesbians, and anyone else who didn't fit the profile of their "master race". How can anyone in their right mind play the devil's advocate for those who promote genocide? These aren't boy scouts we're talking about,

they're fucking Nazis... and they must be met with resistance.

Jeff Scheep has been active in organizing white youth in Rochester, Minnesota. The "All American boys" were responsible for the attacks on a twelve year old Somali youth, and an elderly man. Tom Metzger of W.A.R encouraged white youth to beat an Ethiopian exchange student to death in the early 1980's. There's been an increase in abortion clinic bombings in recent years, committed by right wing extremists, like Timothy McVeigh, a member of the far right "Christian identity" movement, also, the man responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 innocent people. April 18th was not just a random day, that happened to be convenient for the Nazis. It marked the third anniversary of the Oklahoma city bomb, the fifth anniversary of the incident at Waco, Texas, and last but not least, Hitler's birthday.

It's a new wave of violence under the swastika, built on the same old bullshit; ignorance, hatred, fear, and brutality, and no matter how inconvenient it is, we cannot ignore the terrorism, and persecution that goes as far back as the foundation of the Ku Klux Klan in 1866. These are the people who have embraced the politics of lynchings, murder, rape, and assassinations in the name of biological superiority, ignorance, and their

"racial holy war". These are the same people whose rights were so tragically violated last April. These are the fuckers who wanted to turn Minneapolis into their headquarters for their "white revolution".

So what are we gonna do about it? There seems to be no shortage of armchair activists in our toxic metropolis, but an existence based on convenience, apathy, and fear is an open door for fascism, not a solution to it. Direct action gets the goods. The threat is real, and it won't go away no matter how hard we try to ignore it. It has to be dealt with, by any means necessary. It seemed that "non-violent resistance" meant sit at home and watch television instead of actually doing anything to confront these assholes. Is it passive resistance, or passive indifference? And which message do the Nazis understand? Our message was clear. Our city, our streets!

It is our goal to build a strong anti-racist movement within our youth culture. We will not tolerate homophobia, racism, sexism or discrimination, and we will fight against oppression in all it's forms. We will continue to expose, confront, and dissolve the politics of the far right and their movement. They will meet resistance at every level, every step of the way!

NAZI PUNKS FUCK OFF!

From The Minneapolis Star Tribune

Speak language even racists can understand

In response to the "melee" last month between out-of-state Nazis and local Anti-Racist Action protesters, an April 23 letter writer asks, "Are we really any better off with anti-Nazi street thugs attacking people they don't like, as opposed to Nazi thugs and skinheads attacking people they don't like?"

The author defends the racists who came to "make Minnesota the capital of the white cause." He says, "As long as they break no laws, these Nazi fools have the same rights as you and I."

It's odd to me such defense isn't applied when police officers roust young black men who dress "gang-style." When it's discovered that law enforcement uses "profiles" to suspend the liberties of individuals wearing oversized pants, little mention of black civil liberty is made — save the ineffectual, super-leftist tirades in alternative weeklies.

I give him this much: Violence

is a detestable means, one that no end can justify.

But, defending oneself, in person and principle, is not violence; it's basic self-defense.

There's nothing wrong with a good old-fashioned punch in the nose for some racist fool who desperately requires that remedy. Racists warrant confrontation, not intellectual support.

Hate crimes have increased fantastically in this decade; racist Web sites have increased more than 200 percent and show no sign of slowing, and in 1997 the number of hate groups rose. We cannot expect peace while sleeping on these trends.

In Denver recently, a skinhead shot a black man waiting for the bus. He did it "just for something to do." When a nurse attempted to tend to the victim she was shot for helping.

Similar situations take place nationally, but the media deflate these acts as if they're aberrant,

isolated incidents.

One day we'll ask why our government ignored a wider racist association between Timothy McVeigh and hate groups, opting instead to paint him as the "loner ... patriot gone bad-boy-next-door." For now, we cover our eyes and pretend violent racism is over. It's not.

When Louis Ceparano, a black man, was burned alive and beheaded in Independence, Va., why did local officials stonewall? Why didn't the media sensationalize it? Murder, race, beheading — how could they resist?

Here in our Midwest bastion of liberal whiteness, we may think these things are other people's problems. The assumption is largely inaccurate.

Tell it to the 12-year-old Somali

boy in Rochester who was beaten unconscious by a "gang" of white baseball-bat-wielding youths and adults. They called themselves the "All-American Boys."

Tell it to the families in Minneapolis who recently found KKK signs in their yards.

Ask parents of biracial children about disparaging remarks made to them in public. Ask Amy Shull and her terminally ill toddler about the hate messages they encountered at the Ronald McDonald House, again in Rochester.

The Southern Poverty Law Center currently lists five active hate groups in Minnesota, some with national ties, including the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, skinheads and Christian Identity.

Far from being people who need their liberties defended, they

are haters against whom the public needs protection. These groups are not Scrabble committees. The premise of their joint association is the death of other people.

Neo-Nazis tried to take the Twin Cities before, reportedly drawn by our prevalent community of antiracist skinheads. So-called "Hammer Skins" from Texas, Portland and Chicago came in the summer of 1988 to crush the antiracist scene.

They each went home with a lump on the head and boot in the behind, and we are better for it.

With this recent pitiful insurgency of garbage mouths, once again, antiracists had to take out the trash.

As Malcolm X instructed, we must speak to racists in their own language, which happens to be

violence. Anti-Racist Action spoke to the insurgents in uncompromised terms, "Here's your hat; now get the hell out of Dodge."

We should all charge racism this vehemently. If racists always faced this stern a response to their message, we might have fewer of them.

Confronting bigots who hate enough to hurt others demands more than polite conversation. Apprehending their swastika flags and tapping racists with their own poles is a message they understand splendidly. To judge this objectionable, on the basis of Nazis' rights, is purely advocacy for the devil.

— Christopher Stewart, St. Paul. Freelance writer.



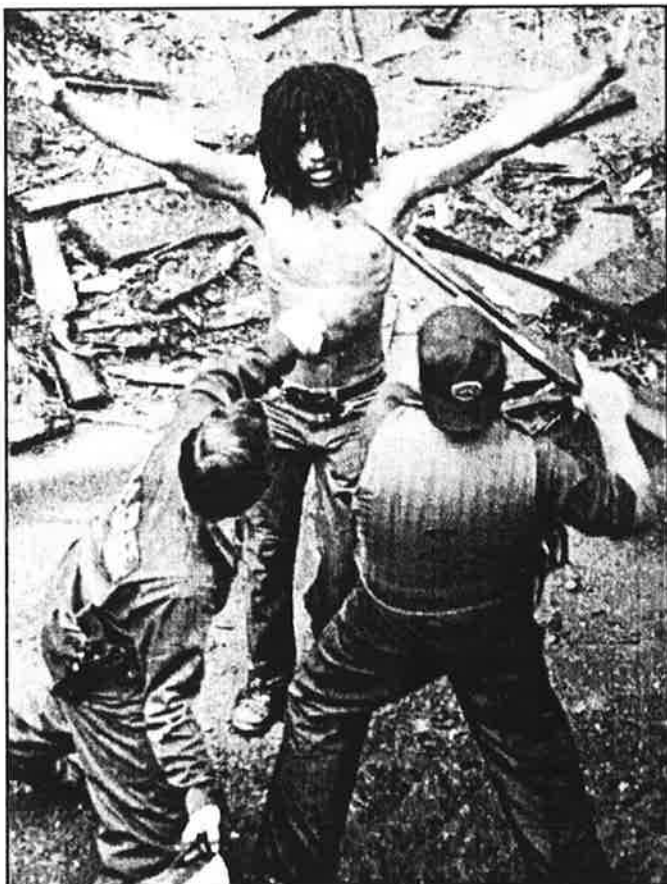


For a while I've been thinking about what cultural diversity actually means in our society. It's a catch phrase of American culture that seems hard to grasp the understanding of. Amidst the harsh and blatant racism, sexism, homophobia, and class conflict ingrained in our everyday life, there is always talk of how America is this embracing melting pot of cultures and different lifestyles. If this seems like a contradiction, that's because it is. Of course there is a wide range of diversity here, but that doesn't mean all are equal and have the same opportunities. It never made sense to me why American culture has been preoccupied with such a blinded, optimistic outlook when the true reality of existence has been far less promising. I've gone through these ideas in my head plenty of times, trying to understand the myth created, but to always come up short of a concluding theory.... Until I saw Ramona Africa speak.

Ramona is a prominent black woman within the revolutionary activist community who has been speaking out on the inadequate state of life in America for the last few years. She does cross-country speaking tour on topics ranging from the ideals of the MOVE organization, of which she is a member, to the imprisonment of Mumia Abu-Jamal, along with the undeniable use of brutality by police forces in communities of color. How do these topics deal with cultural diversity you might wonder? Cultural diversity can be defined as the embracement and celebration of the various people and their beliefs, attitudes, practices, etc... which are supposed to be the make up of what is unique about America. Ramona's testament of struggle against issues of racism and class conflict show that this country may be diverse, but that acceptance and celebration of such diversity in this country is indeed a myth. This country is not concerned with letting people hold onto their lifestyles, for it is assimilation that rules this nation. Just look at what the people and government are doing to First Nation (Native American) peoples land where they've lived for generations. They're either already kicked out and forced to relocate to other living conditions or else they're crammed into usually inadequate living conditions on reservations. This is not celebration of culture. The status quo (middle-of-the-road, white America) and the Eurocentric structure it was founded on, is only interested in cultural diversity on their terms. What I mean by this is that acceptance of tradition(art, language, food, rituals, etc..) of people of color will be praised, but when issues of social concern arise for the underprivileged with less power, that is when diversity is ignored, even crushed. This should not be tolerated by anybody, but that is the foundation America has built itself on. These are some of the reasons why Ramona Africa has taken her struggles to the speaking platform, where the truth can be conveyed and we can all see the problems in simpler terms. Then it will be easier to understand why America is diverse, but less of a utopic existence than we'd all hoped for.

The organization with which Ramona Africa fights injustice is MOVE. This is not an acronym, but a shortening version of "movement", which signifies the push for black liberation. It spawned in the early 70's out of the ashes of the Black Panther party as a vehicle to fight for human dignity. Those involved are uniformly characterized by dreadlocks and the same last name of "Africa", which signify solidarity and unification of principles put forth through the teachings of John Africa. These principles encompass the desire "to put an end to enslavement of any form of life". This includes the end of: unemployment, homelessness, pushing drugs and alcohol in communities of color, and other societal ills relating to race and class. Their cause primarily surrounded the African American community of Philadelphia, but was universal in relation to other ghettoized communities of the world.

The everyday struggle MOVE took up was direct action based. They sought to bring the truth they spoke of to the people by way of an active voice and actions to back up their words. Instead of sitting back and taking the less-than-quality jobs, inadequate schooling and health care, and other insufficient programs, they pushed for radical reform. Through protest MOVE exposed these inadequacies and instated their own programs for the people. This was carried out through meals for the hungry, stop the violence crusades between gangs, search for living space for the homeless, as well as countless other positive initiatives.



Above: Delbert Africa is violently arrested. August 8, 1978

Below: Ramona Africa (left) and Mumia Abu-Jamal (right)



One way in which MOVE was successful in expressing their disdain for the structure of society was the use of the black media. The "legitimate", mainstream media was unresponsive to their plight for the most part, but this wasn't surprising to them. Why would the media report on issues that aren't in the best interest of those in control? Such reporting doesn't occur, and if it does, it's slanted and biased. This was the case with how MOVE was portrayed, so they relied on the objectivity of a man by the name of Mumia Abu-Jamal to bring their struggles to the forefront of society. A free-lance journalist and former Black Panther, Mumia was sympathetic to the ideals of MOVE and won significant praise in communities of color for his willingness to expose the truth of Philadelphia's corrupt police force.

What happened in the wake of MOVE's success was severe governmental crackdown. Since they were the focus and targets of MOVE's opposition, the city officials naturally had to preserve their image. They found ways to ruin the lives of those in the organization through bogus arrests and convictions and used tactics of fear with brutality and intimidation. The media played into this by depicting them as people of violence and disregard for the law. There was obvious fear amongst those in power that MOVE was initiating a campaign of revolutionary ideas that, they felt, had to be stopped.

What concluded was the frame-up of several members of MOVE and a death penalty sentence for Mumia. The journalist had become a thorn in the side of the police by following their tactics of intimidation and repression, thus making them look corrupt and suspect to the problems that affected MOVE. According to Ramona and other legitimate investigations, he was framed for the murder of a police officer and now has sat on death row since 1981. Along with this, the communal living house of MOVE was fire bombed by the orders of the city of Philadelphia, killing six adults and five children, along with burning down the whole neighborhood. The only woman to survive the blast and ensuing gunfire was Ramona Africa, the woman of committed passion I saw speak. Although alive, she was jailed on trumped up riot charges that landed her in jail for a ridiculous seven year term.

This is not an issue of abiding by the law; this is a woman, who along with Mumia and countless other MOVE members, has served time in prison because of their political beliefs. They are political prisoners. Most won't recognize this, for in America there is the supposed freedom and justice that gives all fairness before the law. This is the case for the typical American, but to say that revolutionary ideas and counter-cultural standpoints are accepted and treated equally by institutions of power; it doesn't happen. Look at the way anarchists were treated during the Haymarket affair in the 30's, the way communists were blacklisted in the 50's, and the brutal repression of the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement in the early 70's. These people, as well as countless other leftists and radicals, have been terrorized and suppressed because of their beliefs. Ideas that challenge established institutions are a threat to the present structure and are the justification for suppression by the powers that be.

Such revolutionary ideas are indeed culturally diverse for they take into account the feelings and beliefs of those who are under represented in this American culture. It challenges those blinded by patriotic ignorance to look past the status quo and see into the lives who have been neglected from the system's functions. Ramona Africa and MOVE do represent a culturally diverse segment of the population, but this does not parallel with the ideal of the embodiment of such that is "American". To be as such one is forced to accept the present standards of what is right and what is wrong, and to step outside those boundaries is to be criminal. This is the reality of America and the myth of cultural diversity. Open your eyes and see through the lies.

* The quotation has been listed as "MOVE" for the book was collectively written.



This interview was done by Joe and Kat of Anti-Racist Action before a benefit for ARA commemorating Malcolm X's birthday in May. The Native Ones, along with their crew, make up a segment of the Rhyme Sayers Collective, a Twin Cities underground hip hop label and crew that have strived hard to bring a strong hip hop community to the city. They are the only hip hop group in the city that has a strong political and revolutionary content in their music. They make up a segment of the Rhyme Sayers Collective, a Twin Cities underground hip hop label and crew that have strived hard to bring a strong hip hop community to the city. They are the only hip hop group in the city that has a strong political and revolutionary content in their music. Daddy / Snoop Dogg / Capitalist / Gangster bullshit that is so prevalent in hip hop today. We wanted to do this interview because of the revolutionary content in their music.

Joe and Kat: Who is you all and where you from?
 Balam: The live native, representing the live jaguar, representing the earth.
 Felipe Quatly: The eagle, representing the sky. We're the Native Ones.
 Balam: I'm originally from San Antonio, Texas.
 Felipe: St. Paul, West Side.

J: How long have you all been together?
 B: How long we been together?
 F: Technically or spiritually? Um, no that's a serious question! About 2-3 years.
 B: Two years or something like that.
 F: As a unit, but we've known each other longer than that.
 F: 37 years.

J: Cool, what's the purpose or focus of y'all?
 B: Our indigenous ways, poetry and music, just continuing the tradition. That's our focus.
 F: Our purpose is our people which is first and foremost is humanity. And then culturally is Mysheaka, the original name of the Aztec people, along with black people. We all realize that we come from the same unit. Our make-up is predominantly Latino and black. Cause he's Mexican and I'm half Mexican and half black. That's our immediate humanity and purpose and foremost is the kids. Our indigenous ways teach us in that they are us. They understand more about the universe right now than we do, because they're so close just coming from the womb and what not. And they're closer to it than we are. So it's definitely the kids.

K: From the political nature of your lyrics, how does politics and revolution play a role in your lives?
 B: Well, it plays a big role in our lives, I believe, just basically for the struggle and the situation that we're in. Individual and as a team and as a people. The revolution of our people is a very important part of our lives and music, and we want to highlight that.
 F: It wasn't even a choice. We didn't sit down and go, "Yo, we need to be political, we need to be revolutionaries." I think both of us come from revolutionary-style families who teach those roots and we're both very in touch with who we are, as indigenous people of this land, and what our goals are. Or our ways as an indigenous people - the more we learn about our indigenous ways the more we realize that we need to preserve that and maybe unfortunately, maybe fortunately, that makes us revolutionaries. Right now that's not the way it is, but if we were alive hundreds of thousands of years ago when our people truly were here, we wouldn't be revolutionaries, because that's the way our people were. So, it's kind of like our lifestyle happens to be revolutionary. Our lifestyle is not the norm. So we are also revolutionaries in that we're trying to preserve hip hop culture, because we're both born into the hip hop culture. If anyone studies their roots and our indigenous roots and the roots of hip hop, anybody that knows their people come from tribal ways. Study their roots and the roots of hip hop and you will find that it's one in the same. You know we're the most (political) in our camp (Rhyme Sayers). We're the most, people see us as revolutionaries the most. But as a whole, a lot of the brothers think the same way we do and we've been sitting down and talking to a few of them too. Our life styles kind of make us be that way.

K: Y'all rap a lot in Spanish. Why do you think it's important and how do you see people reacting to it at shows?
 Both: Confused.
 B: I've had people of all nationalities come up to me and say, "Damn, I dig that shit. That's the shit." It's universal, it's fresh and refreshing. Its different in that it just adds to the flavor.

F: And it's also a key to make, especially people in this country, rethink that every one in the world should speak English. They think English is the only language. So it makes them realize that "Oh shit, we're not the only language in the world." Even if we got deep into it, English was the second, but Spanish is closer to our roots than English is. It's a real important part of who we are.

K: What do you all see as women's role in hip hop as a culture?
 F: Women's role in hip hop culture? Well, I see when you say women's role in hip hop, it's kind of unfair because of how we see hip hop. We see hip hop as life. So we see women's role in life as they're the earth. They bring forth the warriors. That, you know, that it's our job to train, but without them we wouldn't have a balance. They're our support system. Without them we would crumble. We have to understand, that in order to train to be a warrior, if you don't respect the women and kids, you have no foundation. They're the foundation, and they're cute too. (laughs)

K: Do you think that women can be warriors too?
 F: Definitely.

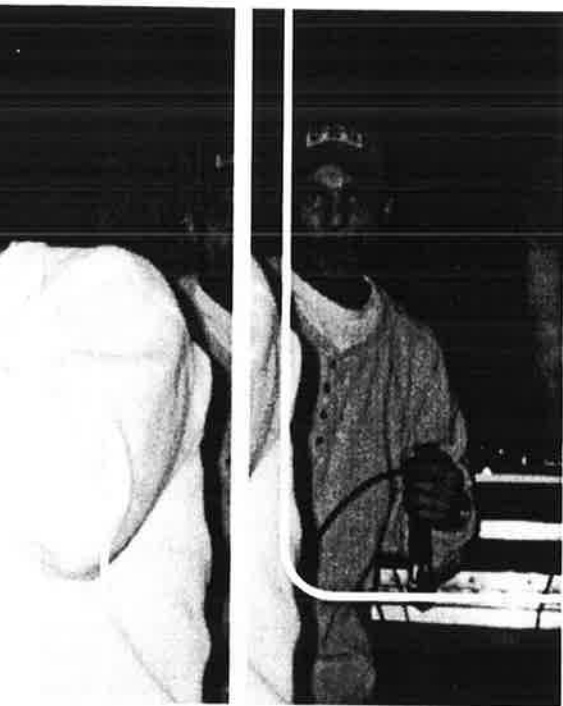
K: How do you see racism in this city, like, as affecting you all? What do you see as the biggest problem? What are the biggest perpetrators?
 B: I'd have to say first of all, the large corporations. Second of all, the fuckin' cops, I guess. In that order. Those are definitely some barricades we are up against right now.

F: People that come up and make you realize that you're a color. When you go to some one and say "Damn, you're awfully, um, whatever color." They don't realize that they're human first. They don't realize and sometimes they don't even know sometimes that they're programmed. Part of the reason is like he said, corporations and cops. Media should fall under cops because they have a big role in the whole thing. Shit, listen to what our kids listen to - Master P! They pump the negative. It was kind of funny, because I was watching the basketball game the other night. They never once showed anybody smiling before they went to commercial. They cut to all these clips with everyone with mean faces. Like they were ready to punch each other. I was like "That's just really fucked up." For example, Jordan's not a bad person, you know, he just go fouled. And no one called the foul. So he's just upset. Media just fucks with peoples' heads like that. You know, it was a real ill feeling.

B: We're up against the false prophets and imitations of authority figures.

K: Do you ever feel like people look at things as black and white, and don't even think about native people and Latino people?
 F: For me, it's a little different because I'm black and Mexican. For me, we both come from families that if it's kind of hard for people that are not Latino 'cause for us it's every day that we, like other people, will go to a Mexican restaurant and feel the culture but that shit was a daily basis for us. I think when you're younger you're forced to be with people that don't associate with your culture or it's more surprising to them. And they're more like "Wow" but the older you get, even the people we hang with now who are not Latino, they're more brains and souls are a family unit with us. So they pull elements of our culture into them. They never try to front and pretend they are who we are cause you have to be who you are, but when you're younger you see it more the older you get, because I don't see it as much as when I was younger.

K: Do you all see connections between fighting racism and hip hop?
 B: Definitely!
 F: Definitely, that's been since day one of hip hop.
 B: If you study these whole twin cities, you see they're being run by families who are



"A lot of people don't even know the definition of racism. It can be broken down to race plus power....To be a racist you have to come from some type of power and people of color in this country don't have any."

label mate "Beyond," were the headlining act at this show. ty in this area. They bring the real, leaving behind the Puff ongs/lyrics and their strong Latino/a and Native pride.

breaking up our families. So it's like they don't want you to know about your family. They want to keep you from your family. They want to keep the family divided. They want to keep the family ignorant. That's what we're trying to stop. Trying to rearrange so that everyone is on the equal level and knows the same thing - knowledge of self. There will be no divide.

F A lot of people don't even know the definition of racism. It can be broken down to race plus power. The way I've been taught, people of color in this country can't be racist. We can be bigots; we can be prejudiced. You know you have to break those down too. Bigotry every one knows if your plain closed eye view and you see a people and you choose not to like them even though you see some of their beautiful points, then you're a bigot. If you choose to judge someone without getting to know them, then you're prejudiced. But to be a racist you have to come from some type of power and people of color in this country don't have any. People can argue, but look at the Fortune 500 companies and I don't see no brothers running no Fortune 500 companies. So I'll just tell you like that.

B Take away the power and you take away the problem.

F It's going to come out of one of these days that the Native Ones are communists. I know its gonna. (laughs) For a while I thought that was a bad thing, but my dad told me one day what's wrong with that. We've been seasoned to think communism is bad but look at Russia before they obliterated communism. Every one had something to eat, you know what I'm saying? Maybe its not all good, but is bureaucracy all good? We got motherfuckers around here who've got nowhere to live, but they (Russia) were feeding everybody! I mean, if we can come to an in-between.

J How do you feel about the capitalist, kinda player/gangster occurrence that seems so entrenched in hip hop today?

B I feel bad about that. It's a sad thing and sad situation, but again, that's what we're trying to get rid of. Trying to put attention to it first of all, then take attention off of it.

F To go further on that, it's like motherfuckers tell you every day that this is the way it is in the streets and what we're rappin' about, this is the way it is in the streets. But who gives a fuck? We see that every day. Do you go to school or college or whatever? Do you go to your elders and learn what you know or learn what you don't know? If our kids see that every day, that's all they know how to be. Let's teach 'em how to do something else. Let's teach 'em, let's teach how to avoid those situations. That's what we're taught and I'm telling you, you'll live longer because of that. I got a little fourth grade boy. I teach at an elementary school, and he's running drugs for somebody and all I can think about is that he's been locked up like 4 times this school year. What the fuck is that? You know he's in fourth grade and all that's on this drug dealers minds is "I get my drugs to these spots and I don't get busted." If he gets busted he's going to jail, for what, a couple of weeks cause he's in the fourth grade. It's fucking bullshit man.

J Also on the same note, what do you think of the decline of political hip hop and the subsequent rise of the major label kinda gangster/capitalist/player hip hop?

F I don't know if there was a decline, because the brothers who were always doing it, are still doing it. There's KRS, Public Enemy, Tribe Called Quest - they're still rockin' that way, but there has been a definite incline of these other motherfuckers.

B Yes, I think what's happened is we've basically been bombarded with these wack emcee's.

F They're poisoning our kids' minds.

J Where do you see the hip hop scene going in the Twin Cities? Is it comparable with other scenes that stay underground, or do you think it'll go the other route and go to the labels, resulting in a loss of the realness of it all?

B I think in the near future it's going to stay underground for quite some time. That's what I'm thinking, that's what I predict.

J Is that what you want?

F It's a hard thing because I'm not going to sit here and lie. Everyone knows where we come from and everyone knows we're down with Rhyme Sayers and that's our family. But for me to say that I don't want us to hit it big and make some money - I'd be lyin'. You see, we do this every fuckin' day. We lose sleep; wives and girlfriends are being neglected; our kids are not being able to see their fathers everyday like they should because we're trying to make a better life for them. So I'd be lying if I said we didn't want to make no money. If we didn't want to, we'd still be doing this shit though. It's different for us. I don't know about the rest of the Minneapolis/St. Paul hip hop scene, but if our shit did blow up, it wouldn't be because of no major, because we are the label (Rhyme Sayers). So if it blew up, it'd have to blow up our way. That's the way it's been so far. If someone came to us with a deal that we weren't liking, everyone in Minneapolis/St. Paul should back us up, because we're letting motherfuckers know, we don't need y'all (major labels). We don't need none of y'all to do this shit for us. We did it ourselves, so if it blows up, its going to blow up our way.

K Do y'all have kids?

B Yeah. My son is two and my daughter is seven months. His name is Achuen, which means specifically the Mayan artisan - artist, musician, poet, singer, sculptor. My daughter's name is Nicah, which means "the center", which is where I keep my kids - at the center.

F If he has kids, we have kids, you know what I mean? We're a tribe and a unit.

J It takes a whole village to raise a child.

Both Right.

F At the same time his (Balam's) girlfriend was pregnant with his first born son, my girlfriend, who I'm no longer with, was pregnant and lost the baby. So when his son was born it was a different kind of bond. I think his son feels that too. There was a point in his life when he wouldn't go to anybody except parents or immediate family, except for me. He would come to me and we'd have fun and just kick it, so there's a different relationship between me and him. I'll always feel that way and hopefully, one day, I'll be able to tell him that when he's older. So yeah, he has kids, so we have kids.

B Basically, I'm doing this for them, all for the seeds.

F I'm doing this for his seeds until the day I have my own. On the whole, for everybody's seeds. The same goes with Beyond and Slug - they got seeds. Like we said before, we're training to be warriors. So it's all about the children.

J Any closing comments?

F (To Balam) Explain your name.

B My name is one of the names on the Mysheaka (sic) comos, which is a sculpture which tracks the months and the days of the lunar year. It means jaguar, which in our culture represents the earth, and the spots on the pelt represent the night sky.

Joe Thanks y'all, any shouts?

F To the seed, the Rhyme Sayers, and my queen. That's about it.



Supporters Of Zapatistas Show Their Strength In The Streets

[Article by Abstract]

On June 19th, 1998 about 75-100 people gathered in downtown Minneapolis to protest a grave injustice occurring on Mexican soil. There is a war being waged on poor people in the southern state of Chiapas, primarily against the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). These people have the courage to stand up for their freedom and liberties and what they've gotten in return is low-intensity warfare by the Mexican government with "foreign aid" relief money being sent by the United States. So here we are in 1998 (about 4 and a half years since the Zapatistas rise) and negotiations have ceased between the government and the Zapatistas. Instead of allowing the Zapatistas their human rights, President Zedillo has decided to wipe them out with brutal force. This was the case in Acteal where 45 people were innocently massacred and now real recently in El Bosque where about a dozen people were massacred. This is not about armed confrontation or rebels clashing with the government, what's going on is a strategized plan to wipe out the Zapatistas and anybody sympathetic to their cause in Chiapas.

This is how June 19th's demonstration fits into the picture, for a man by the name of Riordan Roett was in Minneapolis to speak at the Hyatt at a global economics seminar. The reason Roett is a target for anger is that he is a key player behind this "dirty war" between the U.S. and Mexico to wipe out the Zapatista's struggle for liberation. The Director of Latin American Studies at John Hopkins University, Roett issued a memo to Chase Manhattan Bank on January 13, 1995 saying that the Mexican government "will need to eliminate the Zapatistas to demonstrate their effective control of the national territory". Ironically, Mexican armed forces ended up invading Chiapas on February 9th of that year, thus violating the cease-fire agreement that had been implemented. So it is clear to see where the U.S. stands in the scheme of things, with people like Roett advising Mexico's already corrupt government on how to wage genocidal practices against the Zapatistas. This is why supporters of the Zapatistas have stepped up their campaign, for it's important that people such as Roett be held accountable for their words and actions.

The demonstration that took place was very high spirited, from ceremonial dancing to a lot of receptive responses from passerbys. At one point Roett came out to talk and left speechless, unable to account for his disturbing memo from '95. That was the last of "the Rat's" presence, but about half of the demonstrators decided to go into the hotel and hear what he had to say in his breakfast speech. About 30 people decided to go into the hotel through the skyway over Nicollet Mall, but were stopped and turned away at the entrance to the Hyatt by about 6-10 Minneapolis cops. An argument ensued between one of the officers and an activist who was practicing non-violent civil disobedience. This is when the cops decided to show their true nature of brutality by handcuffing and choking the protester against the wall, to the dismay of all involved. All of this was being videotaped by a protester when the cops further abused their privilege of power and grabbed the camera out of her hands. This is where it got ugly. Due to the fact that all were surrounded in the skyway, along with the media's decision to once again ignore the press releases put out, there was no visual evidence or outside witnesses to the ensuing brutal force of the pigs. These thugs got their kicks by choking people, throwing punches, and tackling others to the ground.

In all, nine people were arrested for this disturbance that they, the police, had escalated. The rest of the protesters had to helplessly flee from the threat of sticks and mace. This police brutality needs to be exposed, for it happens everyday to everyday people(not just radical folks at demos) but it should not overshadow the fact that thousands of people are suffering in Mexico due to this man Roett's economic mindset, which puts profit before the well-being of all people. He is the true criminal, not the peaceful protesters who have the courage to do what's right and speak out. It also needs to be reiterated that once again the MPD has gotten out of hand in a serious manner, along with the fact that there are those all throughout America who support the Zapatista struggle. Those who were arrested are looking at upcoming court trials, so please support their immediate situation. To do so, contact: Frente Del Norte, 2441 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405...Vivan Zapatistas!



ACTIVE RESISTANCE '98



(TOP) Many different ARA chapters, including Minneapolis, took part in this anarchist gathering in Toronto. It was a productive, weeklong conference that featured workshops, forums and a final demonstration against police brutality on the homeless that was 1,000 people strong. Cheers to the Toronto-area radicals, especially ARA, for making AR '98 successful!

(BOTTOM) Aside from organizing, outreach and direct action, ARA feels that street art can be an effective tool in voicing outrage. Whether it be stencils, stickers, posters or spraycan art, you can be sure to see ARA's presence felt in the Minneapolis area....Keep on the look out!

ARA ON THE STREET





RECORD REVIEWS



LAURYN HILL "The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill" album

This CD is worth getting caught stealing. Lauryn Hill puts herself out true...it's different. Lyrically, she comes from a real moral spot (which ain't really my thing), talkin' about how people in the scene act. But she don't preach it - just lays it over a grip of beautiful tracks for you to think about. Musically it's fresh. You gotta listen to it a few times before you catch all the shit she's got going on... not just rolling bass, but harps, horns, samples, and even some electric guitar. Plus, her amazing voice brings this together like a genius. A lot of this music seems like a challenge to popular music calling itself hip hop - to come with more honest verbals and new music styles that represent feeling about where you're at instead of just aimless flexing (of course her shit's on a major label, so...). It'll change your mood.



DEATH WISH KIDS "There's Nothing In School They Can't Teach You On The Street" ep

This is one of the most raw and energy-charged releases I've heard in quite some time. Combine this with abrasive female vocals attacking patriarchal misogyny and you've got yourself one fuckin' amazing release. The Death Wish Kids keep coming at you, unrelenting, until the needle picks up off the vinyl. That's when you should've realized that this one is a keeper and not to be stored away with all the other mediocre punk rock being peddled these days. Seek this soon, for I could see it going out of print in the near future.



.FUCKINGCOM "self-titled" ep

This most recent release on the all-star Prank record label is the newest project from the former singer and guitarist of Antischism and Initial State. This record gives up exactly what you'd expect - intense, fast-paced punk with interesting, almost emo feeling breakdowns mixed in. This didn't strike me as all too different from Antischism, which isn't a bad standard to strive for. I'm happy that these anarcho-folks are still collaborating together, for they've got that insane power to draw you in. Their poetic lyrics attacking technology and the destruction of the Earth are sincere in a way that makes me respect what they've been doing that much more... This record needs no more explanation.



ARDEN CHAPMAN "self-titled" ep

What can you say about these creators of musical brutality. For starters, they recently did the unbelievable and subverted a power source at the Foxfire Coffee Lounge, enabling them to play a protest gig outside in light of the Foxfire's excessive local show cover costs. Now that's fuckin' insane... and so is their music. These local kids take anger to new heights with a distorted and heavy, 1000 m.p.h. sound that makes most other Minneapolis bands seem tame. If that isn't enough, their lyrics are an assault on punk culture and its seemingly lacking threat to mainstream culture, as well as personal rants about fake, conneiving people who come and go. This is epitomized by the song "That Familiar Feeling", which I think is the best song on the record. Pick up this vinyl or burn in hell!



NON PHIXION "I Shot Reagan" single

I first passed over this record a while back in NYC when I was searchin' for more established artists at the time. After overhearing some dope comments thrown around about this crew, I knew I had to check what the buzz was all about. Damn, this release is fresh. No joke, this is one of my favorite singles of 1998. They got some of the tightest beats around and they ain't fuckin' around with their revolutionary stance. The title track, "I Shot Reagan" is this incredible mixture of high tones laced with a solid beat that makes it all work. The rhymes are top notch, but the first track on the b-side sums it all up, "We can all gain a place within the presence of the sun/ Time for revolution now/ With the mind and the gun". "Refuse to Lose" also shows the abilities of DJ Eclipse on the wheels, proving Non Phixion is a force to be reckoned with.



DILLINGER FOUR "Midwestern Songs Of The Americas" LP

We should all know by now that D4 has been rockin' basements and clubs for the last five or so years, but why all the hype? It's simple. They play solid, intense punk rock and there's no gimmick. Sure, they fuck around and provide a few laughs on stage, but it's their music that does the talking. They've got an upbeat sound, not poppy like many like to describe them as, with a hard and fast edge that makes them hard to compare with any other band. The lyrics are clever and political in a manner that is easy to relate to, which seems a rarity these days. They also pay homage to the late Otis Redding on "doublewhiskeycokenoise", which pretty much takes it. I've got to give props to motherfuckers who keep alive the spirit of soul and that seems to also be what D4 is doing for the punk scene as well. Look for a possible Rock Against Racism benefit concert for Minneapolis Anti-Racist Action sometime in the near future.



BLACK STAR "Definition/ Twice Inna Lifetime" single

These cats are blowin' up the spot! Mos Def and Talib Kweli have got to be some of the smoothest, most dope emcee's I've heard in quite some time. Hailing from Brooklyn, NYC, these underground phenoms have been causing a stir amongst the DIY hip hop scene with some solid singles on the Rawkus label and this release is no different. With so much capitalistic, player bullshit floating from the Atlantic to the Pacific its good to see Black Star comin' correct with righteous intentions. This is proven by Kweli on "Twice Inna Lifetime", when he spouts: "Transforming from rookie of the year to veteran/ Hip hop is big business like medicine/ But fuck it, they're going to let us in/ Or else we rush the door/ I've got too many reasons/ So save your why's and what for's/". It's obvious that Black Star has no problem backing their shit up, so support true mic skills and independent hip hop. (Look for the new Black Star full length, which should likely be out by the time this zine hits the street!)



YOUTH AGAINST "La Revolucion De Los De Abajo" LP

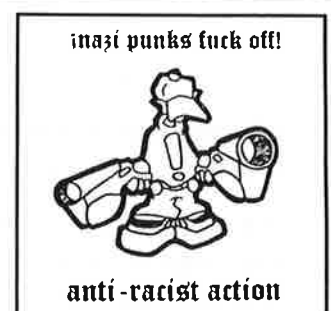
This band, formerly known as Youth Against Fascism, plays awesome, 80's-style hardcore in a vein not unlike early Los Crudos. It's easy to get caught up in comparing YA to Crudos for they're both also from Chicago, sing in Spanish, and have ragin' anarcho lyrics that should bring any stateist bastard to their knees. This band sings about issues that are of relevance and importance to all the world, but especially in North America. "Fuck 187" is an attack on the racist, right wing bill that passed in California that outlaws bi-lingual education. "La Bella Que No Duerme" is an awesome song about breaking down patriarchal foundations that hold back women from liberation. The overall feel of this record is summed up with the lines "Hey camarada/ Defiende a tu pueblo/ Demuestra a tu clase con un gran ejemplo/ Agita las banderas negras/ Ni un paso atras contra el fascismo", which essentially means raising the black flag against fascism. I don't know about you, but that inspires me.

THESE RECORDS CAN BE FOUND AT EXTREME NOISE AND BASSMENT RECORDS.

ANTI-RACIST ACTION PATCHES AND T-SHIRTS

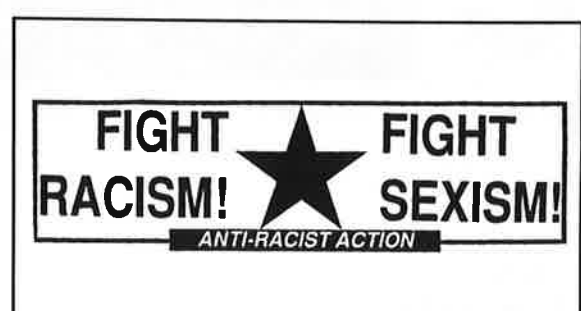
T-SHIRTS

All our shirts are top of the line, heavy duty and all that. Shirts cost \$13.00 each (includes shipping). Please specify size (XL-L-M-S).



PATCHES

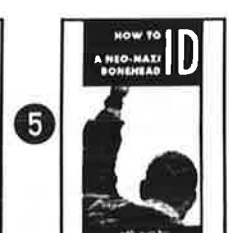
Patches cost a buck. That includes shipping.



LITERATURE

Contact us for other pamphlets. Just send some stamps, and if you can, a donation.

- 1 The 411 on MPLS ARA
- 2 Malcolm X
- 3 We're PRO-CHOICE and we fight back!
- 4 Copwatch
- 5 How to ID a neo-nazi bone head



➤ **WHAT IS ARA?**

We are a direct action anti-racist group. We believe that people actively engaging in struggle against oppression is what brings about radical social change. We're not going to wait around for the government to do it for us because they benefit from racism and all other forms of oppression. We have 3 main areas of work:

- We organize against racist groups like Nazis and the Klan. We organize to shut down Nazi shows/events and out them in their neighborhoods. We participate in anti-Klan work by counter protesting their rallies.
- We organize against the racism of the government institutions like the police. We have started up a COPWATCH, a street program to challenge and confront the police on their behavior.
- We organize against the Christian Right. We help defend Abortion clinics and organize against "pro-life" churches and fake clinics (clinics run by Christian right groups for the purpose of confusing and manipulating women into not having an abortion.)

We are interested in helping to build a movement that is large enough to successfully take on the organized racists/fascist groups and the racism of the government-the racism that's at the foundation of the development of the United States.

Minneapolis ARA is part of the International Militant Anti-Fascist Network, an international network with groups in 6 countries. We are also part of the ARA-Net, which is a rapidly growing network of more than 100 anti-racist/anti-fascist groups in North America. The ARA-net is held together by 4 principles:

- We go where they go. Whenever fascists are organizing or active in public, we're there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. Never let the nazis have the streets.
- Don't rely on the courts or the cops to do our work. This doesn't mean we don't ever go to court. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and to stop the fascists.
- Non-sectarian defense of other anti-fascists. In ARA-net, we have lots of groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything and we have a right to differ openly. But in this movement an attack on one is an attack on us all. We stand behind each other.
- ARA-Net intends to do the hard work necessary to build a broad, strong movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, Homophobia, discrimination against the disabled, the oldest, and the youngest of our people. We intend to win.



Anti-Racist Action • PO Box 80239 • Minneapolis, MN 55408
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